

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE  
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION  
Division of Forest Insect Investigations

WESTERN PINE BEETLE  
CAMPTONVILLE RANGER DISTRICT, TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA  
FALL, 1953  
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

On December 17, 1953 the Authors accompanied R. N. Thompson and A. W. Rogina of the Camptonville Ranger Station during an inspection of barkbeetle damage on the Camptonville Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest. The trip was made in response to reports of damage submitted by Mr. Thompson and Deputy State Forester F. M. Dunow.

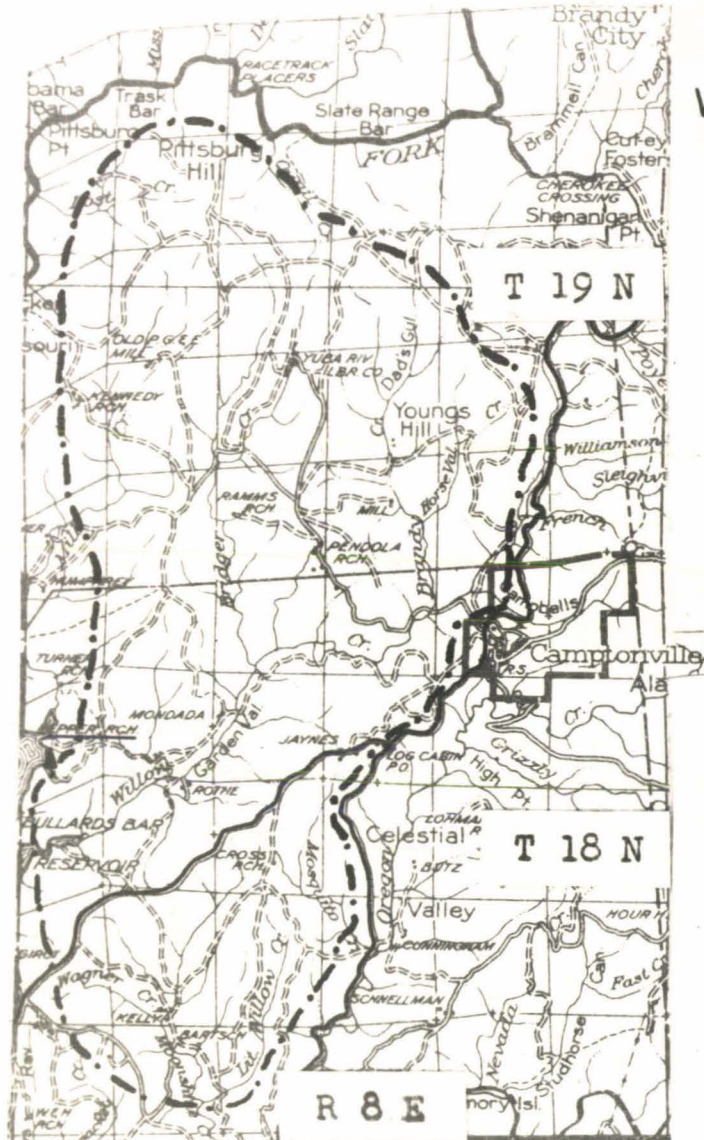
The infestation is scattered over approximately 60,000 acres of pine and mixed conifer timber ranging in elevation from 1600 to 5000 feet. Mr. Thompson estimated that 60,000 merchantable trees and 100,000 poles have been killed during the course of the infestation which is now two years old.

Heaviest damage was found in immature ponderosa pine, although some mature ponderosa pine on several ridges have been killed. The western pine beetle (*Dendroctonus brevicomis*) was mainly responsible for the tree mortality but pine engravers (*Ips* spp.) have been moderately active. The outbreak appeared to have resulted largely from severe snowbreakage in the spring of 1952. The beetles evidently gained a good start in snowbroken trees and have since moved into the surrounding stand, causing group killing. One rather loosely defined group was composed of several hundred dead trees. However, there appeared to be a reduction of loss this fall. It is believed that perhaps 40 percent of all loss observed occurred in 1952, 50 percent in the summer of 1953 and 10 percent or less is made up of currently infested trees.

Several salvage and improvement sales have been made and others are planned. The residual stand appeared to be in good condition in areas where logging had been conducted. Although it will not be possible to apply salvage and other cuttings to the entire infested area, there is no need at this time to undertake direct control by spraying or burning infested bark. Barring further injury to the area by wind or snow this winter the remainder of the outbreak is expected to drop to a normal level. However, it is recommended that the area be kept under surveillance.

Berkeley, California  
January 5, 1954

M. M. Furniss, Forester  
And  
G. L. Downing, Entomologist



# WESTERN PINE BEETLE DAMAGE SURVEY

CAMPTONVILLE AREA

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

FALL 1953

*--- Area surveyed*

SCALE

In 0 1 2 3 4 Miles.